



KENTUCKY READING FIRST UPDATE (2) July 11, 2004

Dear District /School Coaches and Principals:

The KDE Reading First Core Team has been extremely busy trying to prepare our funded sites for this upcoming school year of Reading First implementation. We have heard from many of you as you have begun your implementation at various levels. Some of you have attended your summer institute, participated in professional development about your core reading program, and participated in professional development to learn how to administer the DIBELS and GRADE assessments.

I. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Summer Institutes

The KDE Reading First Core Team has had the pleasure of visiting many of the summer institute sites. Our State Coaches, master trainers, and district support staff are doing an excellent job. Comments from teachers and others attending the sessions indicate that the information presented has been very useful, but a little overwhelming. We want to remind everyone that this first year of summer institutes was to share information about the five essential components of reading and the research that supports effective reading instructional practices. State, District, and School Coaches should reiterate the importance of revisiting the content throughout the year and build in follow-up days for continued professional development throughout the school year. These follow-up days should establish time and provide flexibility for teachers to build a deeper understanding of the essential components and their relatedness when teaching reading. The professional development follow-ups should also provide time to examine instructional practices as they relate to the implementation of your core reading programs and the five essential components of reading instruction.

Core Reading Program Professional Development

Districts and Schools should be participating in Core Reading Program professional development. This will enable everyone to begin implementing when the school year begins.

REMINDER:

National Reading First Conference

The United States Department of Education (USDoE) will be hosting a National Reading First Conference. This event is scheduled for July 13 - 14, 2004, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We have approximately eighty (80) KY Reading First educators who will be attending this conference.

II. STATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/MONITORING

State Technical Assistance

The Reading First Core Team and state evaluation team are planning a technical assistance session for August 10 & 11, 2004. This session will begin the evening of August 10th at 5:30 - 9:00 p.m., continuing on August 11th from 8:30 - 4:00 p.m. in Frankfort. We understand this is a very busy time for you, but we want to share critical information that will assist you in your implementation for the upcoming school year. The Core Team will share information gained from the National Reading First Conference, provide training on the palm pilots for DIBELS administration, and explain how to complete the District Annual Performance Report.

This technical assistance session is **mandatory for all School Coaches** and we encourage District Coaches to attend. You will receive registration information and an agenda within the next week. Please be cognizant of the deadlines so that we may prepare for the appropriate number of individuals.

Monitoring

We anticipate a federal monitoring visit for several schools in the late fall of the school year. We have not received information about this visit, but as soon as we are made aware we will assist in any way possible. We want to make this visit as successful as it was at the state level.

A few tips for the visit:

- Include all stakeholders throughout the implementation of your grant.
- Begin the school year implementing as outlined in your plan.
- Revisit your implementation timeline regularly to monitor your own progress.

III. READING FIRST BUDGET SUPPORT

The Memorandums of Agreement for year two (2004 - 2005) are in the process for approval.

REMINDER:

Year 1 funding must be spent by September 30, 2004. The next quarterly report is due July 25, 2004. It must be mailed to:

Thelma Hawkins
Kentucky Department of Education (16th floor)
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

District Comprehensive Improvement Plans

If a district has included Reading First activities in its District Comprehensive Improvement Plan, then as a best practice, the district will want to update the local board of education as to the progress being made in the implementation of the activities and the impact those activities are making on student achievement in reading. In addition, if the district has included Reading First in its plan, the district should reflect Reading First funds in its CDIP MUNIS budgets posted on their website.

IV. ASSESSMENTS

The assessment timeline is attached below. This timeline will be used for all schools, with one exception. Those schools beginning in July will administer their fall assessments within their first twenty (20) instructional days - but still submit scoring information by the fall deadline date. See attachment.

Before administration of either assessment, districts and schools should provide adequate professional development and support to those administering the assessments. The GRADE video was provided to use with your faculty. DIBELS pencil and paper training should have

occurred before palm training for DIBELS administration. If these have not been completed, please provide time before the fall baseline data is collected to allow your teachers to become familiar with both assessments. Call upon your State Reading Coach to support you through this phase of implementation.

GRADE

All schools must administer the GRADE within the first twenty (20) instructional days. The GRADE should be the first assessment given to students due to our tight turn around time to submit information to AGS for scoring purposes. Schools beginning in July will need to administer the GRADE within the first twenty (20) days, but hold on to assessment documents until the scoring submission date. This is to avoid information trickling in to AGS. KDE and AGS are trying to make this process as smooth as possible.

DIBELS

The Kentucky Department of Education has finalized a contract with Wireless Generation to administer the DIBELS assessment on a Palm Pilot. District and School Coaches attending the August technical assistance session will receive training in how to use the Palms for the purpose of administration. District and School coaches will receive your Palms for your respective Reading First site. Your district or school technology lead will need to assist you as you download the DIBELS software from Wireless Generation. This must be done before you provide professional development for teachers on the Palms.



RFTesting
windows1.doc

V. NATIONAL/STATE EVALUATION

National Evaluation

Each Reading First district/school signed an assurance to participate in any national evaluation of Reading First. MDRC and APT Associates will be the National Evaluation contractors that will conduct an impact study. This study will be a comparison study so some schools that were not funded will have the opportunity to participate with funded Reading First sites.

KDE and representatives from MDRC are in the process of finalizing and negotiating details for this study. You may be contacted soon to participate as one of the sixteen (16) funded sites.

STATE EVALUATION

Dr. Kaye Lowe, our Reading First Evaluator, wanted to compliment the master trainers for sending in the evaluation forms in such a timely manner. This allows the evaluation team to do some preliminary analysis of how the participants believe the summer institutes are going. Once this information is compiled at the conclusion of the summer, we will share information with districts and schools via the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development website or KDE Reading First website.

Dates have been established for evaluation team visits with the KY Reading First case study sites. If you are a case study site, please contact Dr. Kaye Lowe [klowe2@uky.edu] if you have questions.